A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR ROD

Why?

It’s such a short and easy to utter word, but carries such a punch! It becomes a part of us very early in our development. “Why?” is the first utterance of the rebellious child seeking his independence! “Why?” is the key unlocking the door to knowledge for the serious student! “Why?” is the grief-stricken cry of the parent of a careless adolescent! “Why?” is the rage-filled cry of the unjustly oppressed! “Why?” is the broken-hearted sob of the broken-hearted!

We ask “Why?” because we believe we have certain rights, because we believe we are entitled to an explanation, because we want to know, because we are trying to bring order to chaos, light to darkness, understanding to confusion. Yet in so many areas of our life all we are left with is the answerless question, “Why?”

This month our Sunday morning message series will explore the book of Job. Although Job’s name is often associated with patience, even a cursory reading of the book reveals that he, like the rest of us, looks at his life and asks,”Why?” The book is filled with answers to the question of “Why?” which sound much more like accusations than answers. Perhaps instead of saying that someone has the “patience of Job…” we should remark that someone has been possessed with the “Why?” of Job!

In the month of January we will be visiting questions:

- Why do bad things happen to good people?
- What do the righteous suffer?
- Does God see the problems?
- Does God care?
- Why should I worship a God who allows the pain, agony, injustice, violence, and war of this world?

Let’s bring our “Whys” and invite God to wrestle with us…

Rod Kelley,
Interim Lead Pastor
This January kick-off the new year and resolve to grow in community and faith. Visit our website at www.lumcmo.org to find out more and register for these adult classes and ministries:

**Sweet Hour of Prayer**
Starts January 10, 6:30 p.m.
Rush Creek, Room A3
Sweet Hour of Prayer is an open space where you are safe while learning to become vulnerable to the Holy Spirit. Come with an open mind and a willing Spirit to learn about and grow in prayer.

**Single Moms Community**
Starts January 11 (Facilitated by Jennifer Petty and Erin Whalley)
6:30-7:30 p.m., Sunset Campus, Room 110
This is a place for single moms to come together and connect. You and your children are invited to join us for a free meal at 5:30 p.m. After the meal, activities for children are provided while the moms meet in room 110.

**Financial Peace University**
January 11-March 29 (Facilitated by Brad Johannes and Dustin Prockish)
6:30-8 p.m., Sunset Campus, Room 108
Most families in America are living paycheck to paycheck, and it doesn’t have anything to do with income, it is all about the plan. Whether you are single or married, young or old, struggling financially or doing OK, this is an opportunity to take control of something that touches every aspect of your life! Start telling your money where to go instead of wondering where it went.

**Faith in Color**
January 18-April 26 (Facilitated by Arden Ratcliff-Mann)
6:00-7:30 p.m., Sunset Library
Faith in Color is an opportunity to explore the spiritual practice of Bible journaling by creatively responding to God’s Word. From journaling in the margins of a Bible to drawing in a faith journal, there is no wrong way to express your faith in color! This is a relaxed time for fellowship and creative expression; attendance is not required at every session.

**Mindful Parenting**
January 18-February 22 (Facilitated by Steve Daily)
6:30-8 p.m., Sunset Campus, Room 109
Mindful Parenting is a 6 week class that will teach parents how to respond mindfully to their children, how to strengthen their relationship with their kids, and how to discipline in a positive way. There will be simple homework assignments and opportunities to share. It is designed to be both fun and informative.
Attention Gentlemen:

Do you love to eat? Are you looking for a place to fellowship with other men from LUMC and the greater community? We meet the third Tuesday of each month for good eats (the location changes monthly). No registration required. Join us January 17, at Tanner’s at 6:30 p.m., 8250 N. Church Rd, Kansas City, MO 64158. Must be 21 and older. Questions? Contact the church office: 816-781-4554.

UMW Spiritual Retreat

January 27-28, 2017
Register by January 8
The Franciscan Prayer Center, Independence
Open to All Women

Pastor Helen Harris and Vicki McGiffen will lead us in “Beautiful Feet” a retreat written by Beverly Burma. Leave the Sunset Campus at 5 p.m. Friday the 27th and return Saturday at 3 p.m. the 28th. Bring your Bible, your PJs, a hand towel, and a snack to share Friday evening.

For attendees staying overnight, the cost for the retreat, including use of the facility and meals, is $50. For commuters, the cost is $15 for Friday night and $25 for Saturday. Saturday’s cost includes lunch.

Register at www.lumcmo.org/womensretreat17 or contact Lila Weatherford at 816-781-2484.

Oasis Retreat

February 7-March 14
Rush Creek Campus
6:30 p.m.

Women in our community are invited to gather for fellowship, refreshments, a devotional, and then spend 60 minutes in one of the following 6-week studies:

- Real Women, Real Faith: Volume 1
- War Room Bible Study
- The Mayberry Bible Study: Volume 1
- “Fight Back With Joy” by Margaret Feinberg

The cost is $25; scholarships are available. We offer free childcare with registration. Contact oasis@lumcmo.org for questions.
Re-fuel Workshop

Saturday, January 14
9:30-11:30 a.m.
Rush Creek, Room A1

 Forgiveness: Leave Negative Feelings in 2016 with a New Beginning in 2017
Facilitator: Dawn Kuhlman

Holding onto negative emotions can interfere with one's ability to move forward in life and affect your emotional well being. One way to help process these hurts is through forgiveness. In this session, we will examine the relationship between forgiveness and mental health, discuss the forgiveness process, explore the impact of not forgiving and see the difference between self-forgiveness from forgiveness of others. Join us to start 2017 with a fresh slate!

Save the Date for the next Re-fuel Worship:
Saturday, February 11
9:30-11:30 a.m.
Love is in the Air
Facilitator: Kari Anson, Marriage and Family Therapist

Blood Drive

Monday, January 16
2-6:30 p.m.
Rush Creek Campus

Snackpack Assembly

Saturday, January 14
8:30-10:30 a.m.
Sunset Campus, Rooms 107-109

All ages welcome. Snackpacks are delivered to the four Liberty middle schools and sent home on Friday with students who may be in need of extra food over the weekend. Our snackpacks have provided food for 175 kids!
HIS Kids Resumes

Wednesdays, Starting January 11
6:30-7:30 p.m.
Sunset Campus
Ages 3 - 5th Grade

Kick-off the new year in this mid-week ministry designed to provide students with biblically based programming, increased self-esteem, and a sense of belonging through fellowship with other children—all while having fun learning about God’s great big love for them.

Teams of leaders and helpers lead the children through large group time with small group breakouts that focus on Bible time, life skills, activities and games, music and mission projects.

No time to fix dinner before Wednesday evening activities? Bring the family to Wednesday Community Dinner from 5:30-6:30 p.m. in our Family Life Center at the Sunset Campus.

Questions? Contact Arden Ratcliff-Mann, Director of Children’s Ministries at arden.ratcliff.mann@lumcmo.org or (816) 781-4554 x121

Sunday Evening Youth Service

Sundays, Starting January 8
6:30-8 p.m.
Rush Creek Campus
6th-12th Grade

Questions? Contact Krista at Krista.Gonzalez@lumcmo.org or (816) 781-4554 x115

Middle School Hangout

Resumes Wednesday, January 11
6:30-7:30 p.m.
Sunset Campus Study Center

Join us for an awesome hour of fellowship, games, a short devotional, and fun! Come hangout on Wednesday nights with the LUMY tribe, get to know Andrew, our Associate Youth Director, and hangout together.

Contact Andrew at Andrew.Gordon@lumcmo.org or (816) 781-4554 x110
Coffee with the Pastor

Sunday, January 22, 2p.m. at the Sunset Campus, Room 220

If you want to know more about our faith community, our ministries, and what it means to follow Jesus as a part of LUMC we invite you to Coffee With The Pastor. We will provide information about who we are, what we do, and why we do it. Childcare is provided.

Community Dinners

Dinners Resume Wednesday, January 11

Join us in the Family Life Center of the Sunset Campus from 5:30-6:30 p.m. each Wednesday for a delicious meal and fellowship. A kid-friendly option is available. Afterwards, there are studies and opportunities for children, youth, and adults. The cost for a meal is $7/person, $4 for children under 12, or $20/family.

Weather Cancellations

As we continue in the winter season, we may need to cancel events and ministries at the church for road and safety conditions. When we cancel or change an event because of weather, our homepage banner will feature the weather cancellation graphic and when clicked will go to a page with time changes or cancellations. You can also receive updates from our Facebook page. We will also send out an email with changes for worship and all-church events. As always, use your best judgement and be safe!

Apportionments

LUMC has paid our 2016 Conference and District Apportionments in full. The main way we support the ministries of the United Methodist Church is through our apportioned funds, a method of giving that proportionally allocates the churchwide budget to conferences and local churches. For United Methodists this method of giving has become a strong, generous tradition. Together, through our connected congregations, we accomplish what no single church, district or annual conference ever could hope to do alone.
Church Staff

Allen Zugelter, Lead Pastor
Rod Kelley, Interim Lead Pastor
Mary Weaver, Associate Pastor
Wendy Coffey, Church Administrator
Julie Dorset, Administrative Assistant
Veda Donner, Director of Outreach
Bryan Taylor, Director of Traditional Music & Worship Arts
Allison Mabe, Director of Contemporary Worship
Sharon Parker, Organist
Sean McCulloch, Contemporary Sound Tech Lead
Jan Hensel, Administrative Assistant of Spiritual Growth
Rich Braymer, Maintenance & Custodial Manager
Abby Smith, Marketing Coordinator

Craig Walls, Executive Director of Spiritual Growth
Krista Gonzalez, Youth Director
Andrew Gordon, Associate Director of Youth
Fabian Gonzalez, Director of Young Adult Ministries
Teresa Watson, Director of Hilltop Preschool
Dena Witkowski, Hilltop Preschool Administrative Assistant
Arden Ratcliff-Mann, Director of Children's Ministries
Kizan Williams, Children’s Ministries Assistant
Joli Finke, Nursery Director
Shirley Green, Finance Manager
Dalynn Hayakawa, Financial Secretary